MONTEREY NEWS

July 2007
VOLUME XXXVII · Number 7

The Town

Note: Maggie Leonard had to step down as Town Reporter at the end of May (and didn't she do a terrific job?), and to date we have not been able to find anyone to take her place. This report was compiled, and in some cases fleshed out, by the editor from Select Board meeting minutes (available only through the June 18th meeting) written by Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe.

Broadband Internet Service

While some lucky households in Monterey now have broadband Internet service through individual satellites or through Verizon's DSL, many of us still have only the slow telephone modems. WiSpring, a small Great Barrington company hopes to provide an alternative broadband service through a fixed wireless network that uses antennas instead of satellites or phone lines. The network uses small antennas placed at homes or offices aimed toward one of WiSpring's towers, which can send and receive Internet, email, video, music, and other data. Unlike WiFi, the signal could cover many miles and be community-wide. The network is still being developed and the service is not now available in Monterey, though WiSpring representatives have met with the Select Board several times to explore the possibilities. A main issue is where to locate the towers. On May 21, Crispin Tresp of WiSpring discussed with the board some

Julie Johnston snapped this picture of a summer visitor.

of the obstacles that have been encountered in Egremont and Alford and recommended that a broadband committee be appointed to get things moving in Monterey. The next step is to review the possible sites.

On the DSL front, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported at the June 18th Select Board meeting that some residents on Gould Road have received DSL but that the highway garage has not yet been able to get it. Forbes is going to talk with Verizon (good luck on that one, Maynard).

On the Roads & Around Town

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes meets with the Select Board every week to report on the status of Monterey roads and other infrastructure issues. One item of discussion in June was the upcoming paving of Sandisfield Road. The bid for the paving will be opened at 11 a.m. during the July 9th Select Board meeting. The drainage on the road and other preparatory work is being completed in anticipation of the paving.

The status of the stone wall in front of Pat Mielke's property on Main Road was discussed several times. Forbes said it is his understanding that even though the wall is on town property, it was constructed by the owners, not by the town. The town will haul the rocks away if it falls but any other maintenance of it is the homeowner's responsibility. Further discussions will need to be held with the homeowner, and Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert pointed out that whatever is done, the town will need to be consistent with what it has done in the past with other similar walls. The board wrote a letter to Mielke asking about the origin of the wall.

Forbes reported that the highway crew has been working on repairing the blown-out drain on the corner of Hupi Road. Michael Storch (who now attends many meetings as a private citizen, apparently not having gotten enough of them during his three-year stint on the board) stated that the brush at the corner of Fairview Road and Main Road is obstructing visibility and asked if the highway department could trim that back. Sylbert asked if the highway crew could cut the vines off the two willow trees on the flats to prevent the trees from dying; the Tree Warden has been asked several times, with no response. In response to a resident's complaint about Sylvan Road, Forbes said that it is a town-maintained road until it goes around the corner.

Forbes reported that the cost for repairing the shed at the town garage would be approximately $12,000 to $15,000, and the cost to move it to a new site would be approximately $30,000, including excavation.

At the June 11th Select Board meeting, Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard provided a draft copy of a letter that was sent to Richard Tryon requesting that he sign a release to have the town come on his property to remove some trees in Rawson Brook. Mr. Tryon came to the June 18th meeting to state that he was upset about receiving the letter because no one had ever come down to speak about the problem and discuss in a friendly way how to resolve it. He then signed the release and gave it to the board.

To Porta-Potty or Not

The humble porta-potty had its turn in the spotlight in June. In the June 4th meeting Director of Operations Forbes asked the board to make a decision about whether or not to place a porta-potty at the transfer station for the attendants or continue to have them use the Highway Department's bathroom as they have been doing. For reference, the board asked Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier about

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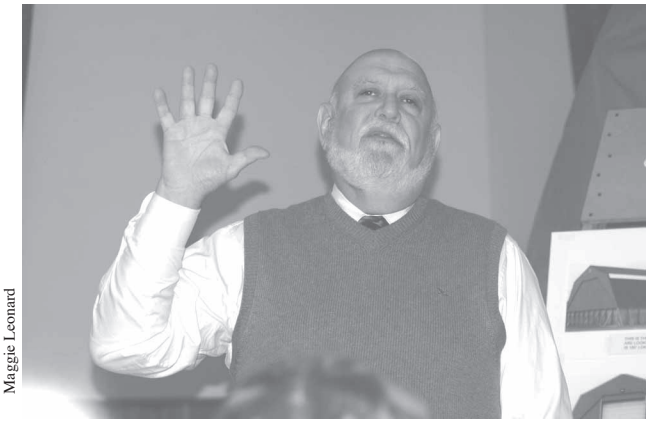
the cost of the Park Commission's porta-potties, which she reported as $1100/year for the town beach and Greene Park for the summer season). Forbes was asked to investigate the cost for a porta-potty at the transfer station, and at the June 23rd meeting it was decided that he should order one to be placed there.

But we are apparently not done with the porta-potty issue. Dan Moriarty reported at the June 11th meeting that the Lake Buel District wanted to have one placed at the Lake Buel public boat ramp. Barbara Gauthier said that she believed the ramp was on state property and the town should not get involved.

Police Report

As reported in the June *Monterey News,* the Select Board asked for Officer Kyle Whalley's resignation because he did not meet the state requirement that a police officer live within 15 miles of the town served. In late May, Whalley's lawyer, Raymond Jacuba, asked for additional time so that Whalley could consider his options, but the board responded that the offer of two weeks' additional pay would be rescinded and Whalley would be terminated with cause if his resignation letter was not received promptly. In early June the board sent a follow-up letter to Whalley about the town items that he needed to return.

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported to the Select Board that one of the part-time police officers will cover the unfilled shifts until a full-time officer is hired. Following the advice of Town Counsel, the board and Backhaus decided that an ad for the open position will be placed in the *Berkshire Eagle* for one week.



Maggie Leonard

Michael Storch addresses May Town Meeting on his last day on Select Board.

Backhaus reported on the following items from the Police Department blotter:

Alarm on Mt Hunger Rd; alarm at Town Hall; loose cows on Blue Hill Road; lockout at Gould Farm; dumpster fire at transfer station; alarm on Hupi Road triggered by an exterminator; wallet larceny on West Road and a reported credit card larceny, both under investigation; alarm on Wellman Road; 911 call on Gould Road; medical call assistance on Tyringham Road; down tree assistance; disabled vehicle left on Route 57 towed; false alarm at Steven's Lake. A complaint was received from someone run off Fairview Road road by a box truck towing a trailer, and a complaint was received about the dumpster at the General Store being emptied at 4 a.m.

Traffic Issues

At the June 4th Select Board meeting, Josh Allentuck of Tyringham Road expressed his concern about the number of people who don't follow the posted speed limit on Tyringham Road when approaching the blind corner by the church. The Police Department will put the speed trailer there part of the time. Mr. Allentuck suggested having a dormant cruiser parked strategically to slow people down. Select Board member Scott Jenssen asked how much it would cost to add the photo feature to the speed trailer to take pictures of license plates of speeding vehicles. He also suggested placing a sign on Tyringham Road saying something like "Entering Village" or "Stop Sign Ahead."

Dick Tryon came to the June 4th meeting to thank the Select Board and Police Department for having people in the center of town on weekends to help with the traffic congestion. And Ray Tryon suggested at the June 18th meeting that an extra parking space could be created if the guardrails across from Town Hall were moved over a bit.

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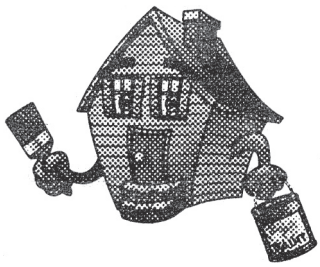

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Don't Forget the Boat Ramp

Various citizens and town board members continue to voice their concerns about a Lake Garfield public boat ramp. On June 4th Leroy Thorpe of the Park Commission came to the Select Board meeting to ask the board to post something to address residents' requests about where boat owners will be able to get their boats in and out once the beach ramp is removed. He stated that he is getting a ton of calls and that this issue does not fall under the Park Commission's duties. The Select Board asked Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard to research the Amidon property just north of the town beach regarding public boat access.

Rod Palmer came to the June 18th meeting to discuss the status of the boat ramp. When the board told him they are still working on it, Palmer said he believes the town should think about using the eminent domain option. He also expressed concern that at the transfer station people are dumping their garbage and then leaving their cars in front of the dumpsters while they rummage around in the swap shack. He asked that the attendants keep cars moving and/or ask people to move their cars to a parking spot out of the way after they've dumped their trash.

Town Clerk Issues

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart reported that he had spoken with Town Clerk Barbara Swann about the board's April request that she provide Town Hall with electronic copies of the town bylaws and town zoning bylaws. Swann will not pass them to the Inter-Departmental Secretary because she feels that the certification of the documents would be lost (even though it was noted that other surrounding towns post theirs). Swann is going to contact the website provider about getting access to her own page.

The issue of the Town Clerk's availability was again discussed at the June 18th Select Board meeting. Getting the Town Clerk to work from the office provided at Town Hall has been an on-going issue. (All the Town Clerk records and computers are located in Town Hall.) Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe will again provide the board with the list of people who have come in looking for the clerk during the week. (The previous Select Board asked Noe to keep this list to help support their position that the clerk should be available during the week/daytime.)

The board met with Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe to discuss the ongoing two-year conflict between the Town Clerk's office and the Inter-Departmental Secretary's office. Noe repeated her request that the board have someone from the clerk's office come in and discuss what the issue is (saying it's unknown to her) in an Executive Session. In the past the clerk's office has refused the request. The board reviewed the option Town Counsel gave them last year to open an investigation into the issue and post any findings in the next town report.

This and That

Jina Ford of Berkshire Mediation Services met with the Select Board on June 4 to review the revised mediation report and discuss the changes and possible misinterpretations. At the board's request, Ford will contact Town Counsel regarding the legal process for handling problems with elected officials.

On June 4, Cynthia Weber, Joe Baker, and Susan Sellew of the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee, former Town Counsel Jerome Scully, and current Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard met with the Select Board to discuss the hardship petition to change Edith Wilson's will and clarify what can be built on the property and where. At an earlier meeting, Baker said that the WMH Committee is fully in favor of constructing a building to be used as the new Monterey School when the future Community Center is built.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the start time for the July 7th second home owners' meeting at the firehouse has been changed from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

— Will Marsh, from Select Board minutes

Maggie Leonard, who stepped down last month as Town Reporter, has been a treasure for the News (and for the town) over the years, setting a high standard as photographer, editor, reporter, trusted adviser, and friend in need, always willing to help. Thanks Maggie!

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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarships to 16 Students

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has announced that the McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of $74,050 in scholarships to 16 students from Monterey. The fund, created in 1994 by Edith Wilson in memory of her long-time friend Marjorie McLaughlin, supports the young people of Monterey as they pursue a college education.

First-time scholarships for undergraduate fall enrollment were awarded to:

- Annabel Edelman, Hampshire College
- Barbara McAlister, Mt. Holyoke
- Dinah Mielke, Endicott College
- Riley Murkett, Suffolk University
- Emily Shaw, Roger Williams
- Kathleen Tryon, Excelsior College

Renewal scholarships for undergraduate studies were awarded to:

- Mark Brown, UMass Amherst
- Nicole Campanale, Temple University
- Kate Casey, Mass. College of Art
- Trevor Cobb, Motorcycle Mechanics Institute
- Kristen Dempsey, Eckerd College
- Tarsi Dunlop, Middlebury College
- Jesse Johnston, Northeastern Univ.
- Bridget Mendel, Northwestern Univ.
- Christopher Tryon, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Christina Vallianos, UC Berkeley

A committee of Monterey residents reviewed applications and awarded scholarships based on academic achievement, community service, desire to achieve academic and life goals, and financial need.

Monterey Church Concert

Following a winter spent refurbishing our sanctuary, the Monterey United Church of Christ would like to invite the community into our newly brightened space—a re-sanctification of sorts. So, we're hosting a free concert featuring John Sellew (painter-musician extraordinaire!), Vikki True, and Bobby Sweet on the evening of Thursday, July 5, from 7–9 p.m. What a treat to have such fine local musicians! Please come and enjoy the sights and sounds of our sanctuary.

Boat Ramp Committee

The Monterey Select Board is forming a Public Boat Ramp Committee to explore possibilities for a public boat access at Lake Garfield. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact the Select Board at 528-1443, ext. 114, prior to July 15.

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2008 real estate and personal property first quarter tax bills will be mailed on June 30 and are due **August 1**, 2007. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October. However, if you wish, you may pay the first two quarters now. Questions regarding assessments, personal property tax, or exemptions should be directed to the Board of Assessors at 528-1443 x115.

Right-to-Farm Bylaw

Monterey's next Town Warrant (whenever that is published) will contain an item to approve a Right-to-Farm bylaw. "What?" you ask. "Didn't we do that in 2006?" Yes, we did pass, by unanimous voice vote, a Right-to-Farm bylaw at our May 6, 2006, Town Meeting. But a technical filing glitch prevented the bylaw from gaining legal status. Thus, on Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 11:30 a.m., a legally convened meeting of the Monterey Agricultural Commission reapproved the Right-to-Farm bylaw. Copies of it have been submitted to the Interdepartmental Secretary at Town Hall and the Town Clerk. And copies of it can be found on the desk in Town Hall's foyer.

The Warrant item will read: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Right-To-Farm bylaw, on file at Town Hall, which encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Monterey by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies, or take any other action relative thereto.

Agricultural Commission members Laurily Epstein and Brian Puntin will be happy to answer questions about the Right-to-Farm bylaw.

— Laurily Epstein

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Planning Board News

The elections at the annual Town Meeting resulted in the Planning Board gaining a new board member, Alan Salamon, who has been attending Planning Board meetings for the past few months and is familiar with the issues and projects of the Planning Board. Mr. Salamon is thoughtful and his professional skills as an attorney are a real asset to the board.

At the May 10th meeting, the Planning Board discussed and voted on the Form A application of Joanne Simms. The Simms's came to the Planning Board approximately ten years ago with a Form A proposal, but at that time the board was not able to determine what kind of road accessed the Simms's property and if it could serve as road frontage for a land division. Shortly after that, the Simmses were involved in a court case with an abutter, Maureen Haugh, to determine the status of the road known as Old Beartown Road. The old road was part of the land purchase by the commonwealth in 1940 when it was acquiring land for Beartown State Forest. In 2003 the Land Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ajudicated that Old Beartown Road is a private way that is owned by the Commonwealth, thus paving the way for the Simms's current Form A application.

The Planning Board made a site visit to Old Beartown Road with the Simmses and Highway Superintendent Maynard Forbes. Though the Simmses were able to make some improvements to the road prior to the court case, the Planning Board determined that the road needs upgrading. Forbes made some recommendations about construction standards, which were duly submitted to the Simmses. The Planning Board voted to disapprove the Form A application based on inadequate road construction for access to four lots, and a letter to that effect, along with the Highway Superintendent's recommendations and the Subdivision Control Regulations, was sent to the Simmses.

At the May 24th meeting, the Planning Board met with Rob Hoogs, an engineer with Foresight Land Services and former member of the Great Barrington Planning Board, as well as the spouse of our esteemed chair, Cindy Hoogs. Rob Hoogs was present to discuss the common driveway bylaw we have been working on. He presented the board with the Monterey Department of Public Works "Regulations for Access to Public Ways," a set of regulations for applicants who apply for a driveway curb cut onto a public way. These regulations, which are posted on Monterey's web site, include language governing common driveways. Hoogs suggested that the Planning Board may want to amend sections of their proposed bylaw to be compatible with these DPW regulations, i.e., number of allowable lots served by a common driveway, width of road, slope, drainage, etc.

Mr. Hoogs led the board through a series of questions to define the purpose of common driveways, as well as making distinctions between common driveways and subdivision roads. There was discussion about the maximum number of lots that should be served and who should review and approve common driveways. The discussion went on until almost 10 p.m. with board members "feeling tired and very interested in what Rob had to offer," according to our minutes.

Attorney David Lavan attended the June 14th Planning Board meeting to present a Form A plan for his clients Philip Simkowitz and Lorraine Wolf. The property is located on the south side of Route 23 and the plan shows a land division that conveys 0.905 acres from Simkowitz and Wolf to their abutters Andrew Ritter and Carrie Negrini. There is another new property line where Ritter and Negrini convey land to Simkowitz and Wolf—basically a swap. The rest of the plan divides the realigned land of Simkowitz and Wolf into two lots: one lot with 15.49 acres and road frontage that exceeds zoning minimums (200 ft.); and the second lot which is two acres with two hundred feet of frontage. The Planning Board voted to approve the Form A.

An update on the master plan: the Planning Board will be holding a meeting in August for the Open Space and Recreation element of the master plan. The meeting will be in the form of the Community Conversation that was held about the Monterey Schools a few months ago. This will be a chance for citizens to come and share their views on existing open space lands and recreational opportunities in Monterey, and to dream about more—or not! It all depends on the feedback of those present. There will be more information in the next issue of the *News*.

— Maggie Leonard

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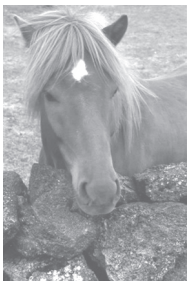

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Library Summer Activities
More Hours, Magicians, Storytellers, Book Sale, & More

New Thursday Hours

Beginning on July 5 the library will be open every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m. To inaugurate the new hours, if you bring in your overdue books on a Thursday during the month of July, your fines will be waived!

Sisters in Crime

On **Monday, July 2,** at 7 p.m., three women mystery writers—Leslie Wheeler of New Marlborough, Tempa Pagel, and Susan Oleksiw—will present "It's a Mystery to Me." They will read from their books and discuss the writing craft. Free, suggested for adults.

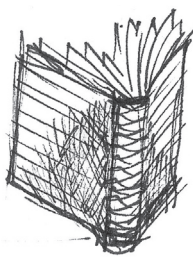
Saturday Mornings for Kids

All programs are free and begin at 10:30 Saturday mornings.

Saturday, July 7: We welcome our friend, the ever-popular John Porcino, storyteller, folksinger, and musician. Co-sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council and Monterey Library.

Saturday, July 14: Minstrel Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack will present a delightful musical family program, "Tunes within Tales and Tales within Tunes," featuring fiddling, mandolin, singing, guitar, and more.

Saturday, July 21: Sing-along with singer/songwriter Tom Sieling, who brings humor and a wildly musical point of view to the library for everyone to enjoy.



Saturday, July 28: Storytelling fun with Myrna Rosen while parents browse the bargains at the annual book sale on the lawn (see below).

Saturday. August 4: Catch the Beat with Magician Greg McAdams in a unique magic, comedy, and audience participation event for the whole family, as we join forces to defeat the criminal mastermind "The Beat."

Summer Reading Program

Our summer reading program for children ages 4 to 12 will start July 1. Enjoy the pleasures of reading. Children can keep track of their reading, complete games and activity sheets, and get rewards of ice cream treats from the General Store. This year's theme is Catch the Beat. This statewide reading program, is funded by the Monterey Library, the Monterey General Store, the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

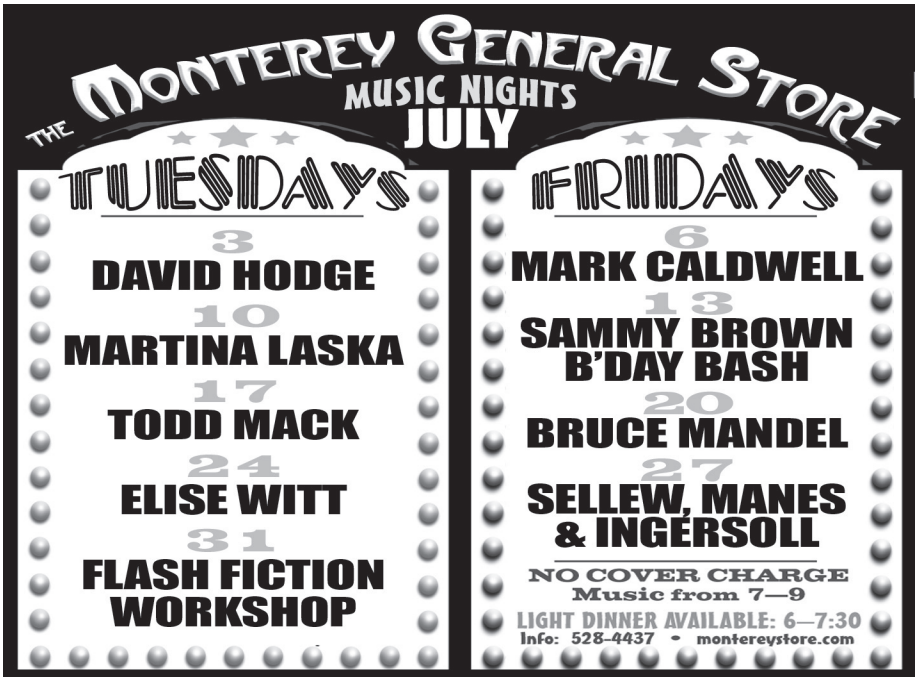
Book Sale July 28, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

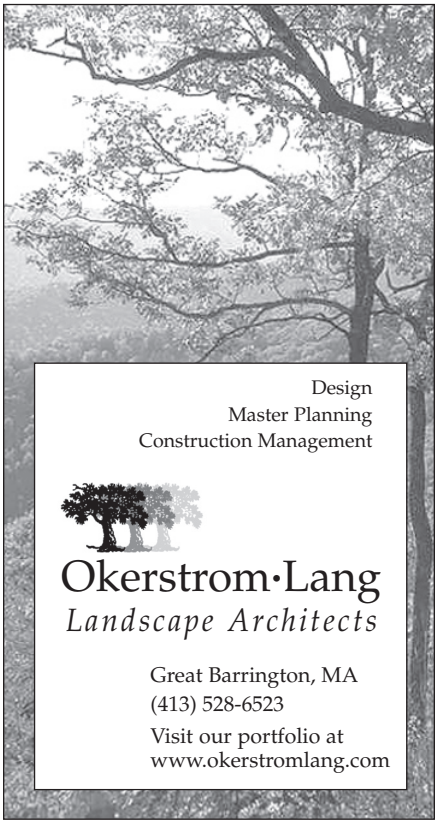
We are accepting donations of books, tapes, and videos (please, no Reader's Digest condensed books or water damaged or mildewed booksa) for our annual book sale, which is our major fundraiser for the year. Bring items by any time the library is open. We also could use some volunteers to sort through the books. If you'd like to preview the items for sale and cool off in the basement from the summer heat while you're at it, come by when the library is open and give us a hand. Your final chance to preview the books will be to help us out at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 28, as we carry them all out to the tables. Your best chance to get real bargains would be to help us carry the books that haven't sold back into the basement at 1 p.m that same day. You never know what you might find at our book sale!

Painting Donation

Leonard Weber was commissioned by the family of Mac Carlson to do a painting of the Monterey Library. Mac spent many hours as a volunteer working on the card catalog for the library and was a trustee for many years. Come in and see this original watercolor by Monterey's own Townscape artist. Thanks to Mac's family for this gift to remember her by.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director





7th Annual "Who the Heck are the Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) & Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz.

1. The Friends of Lake Garfield are …

a. People who have no choice but to be friends with a lake because no one will play with them.

b. Nomadic tribes of the Sahara who've settled in Monterey and love everything that's wet.

c. A tireless collection of community-minded folks, deeply dedicated to the preservation and protection of our glorious Lake Garfield, for all to enjoy.

d. A branch of the Navy Seals assigned to watch over (and under) Lake Garfield.

e. Lake Buel and Steven's Lake. And sometimes Otis Reservoir drops in as a fourth for bridge.

2. The accomplishments of FLG include:

a. Repeal of Prohibition.

b. Purchasing a preponderance of weed-eating weevils, releasing them into Lake Garfield, and instructing them to only dine on the incredibly invasive milfoil weed that was speedily spreading though our waters and on the verge of strangling swimmers. Happily, the weevils conquered the evil weeds, trimming their numbers and stopping their strangling spreading.

c. Buying bundles of Galerucella beetles, whose main mission in life is to munch on the wily purple loosestrife weed that can grow in such profusion as to barricade shorelines, preventing amphibian—like sweet little turtles, for example—from enjoying shore leave for the purpose of reproduction. FLG's efforts thinned out the purple loosestrife and are serving as a statewide example.

d. The conception and execution of LakeFest, a day of FREE fun for one and all. This year FLG brings you LakeFest on August 11 (write it down) with the support (financial, emotional, and physical) of our Town of Monterey.

e. All of above and lots more, except A.

3. The Massachusetts Safe Boating Rules, recently disseminated by FLG …

a. Do not allow alcohol, smoking, or kissing while boating.

b. Also apply to boats in your bathtub.

c. Prohibit oil tankers from using Lake Garfield on weekends between 12:00 & 5:00 p.m.

d. Can be viewed on the FLG website: www.lakegarfield.org.

e. Urge you to call 911 if you see any violations.

4. To benefit Lake Garfield and its users, our magnificent Monterey General Store (Yeah, Ken!) is now selling …

a. Flashy yellow bathing caps to make long-distance swimmers more visible to boaters. (We have had a few near misses.)

b. T-shirts sporting the words "Lake Garfield doesn't suck!"

c. CDs of *La Mer*, by Debussy.

q. A line of low/no phosphate detergents that those in the lake area can use. When phosphates seep into the Lake, they make weeds grow, one might say, like weeds! Not to mention, phosphates stay in the lake for years. And years. And years. That's quite a price to pay for washing a few dishes.

e. The book *101 Wonderous Weed Recipes That Make Dinner Divine*.

ANSWERS (Will Marsh, please sprint upside down. *Hey, I'm trying. —WM*)

4. a & q (how did a "q" get in here?)

3. d & e

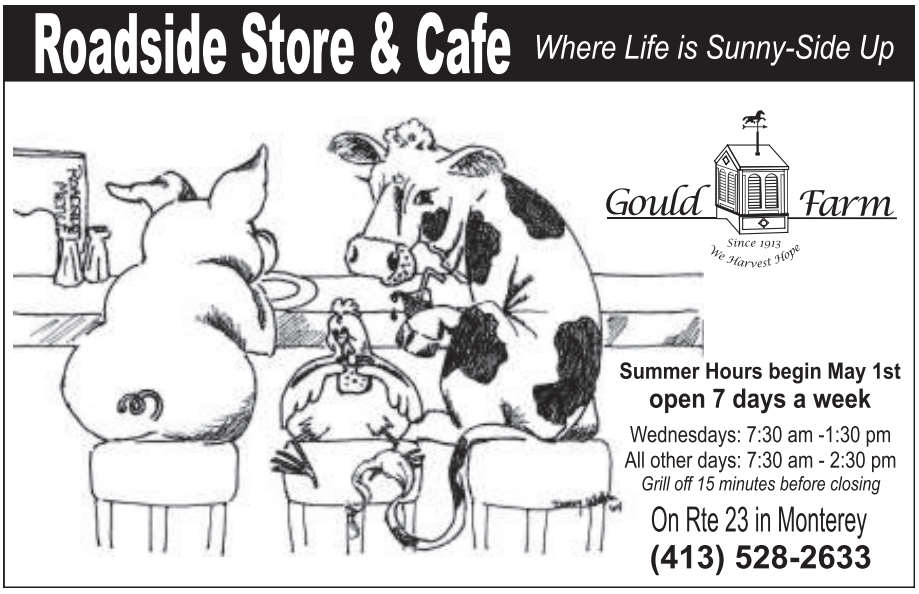
9:30, at the firehouse.

Join us at our next meeting on July 7, at www.lakegarfield.org, for an application. MA 01245—or check out our website, your check to FLG, Box 355, Monterey, as well. Dues are just $35 annually. Send nization deserve the honor of your membership, at least, if not your participation,

2. e. And doesn't such a worthwhile orga-

1. c

— Hy Rosen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Pearls from Safe Boating Course

On May 26, Friends of Lake Garfield sponsored a Safe Boating course run by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Seven boaters are now certified as safe boaters. FLG paid for the materials for them and for a set for the Monterey Fire Dept., who donated the space for the course.

A few pearls of boating knowledge follow. These are but a few of the many important bits of information gained.

Sailboats have right of way over powerboats when under sail.

When boats pass each other in a narrow channel, they should pass "port to port," which means each turns to the right as they pass.

The state speed limit is 45mph.; however, boating accidents can occur at any speed. If an accident does occur, a boater was traveling too fast for the conditions, regardless of the actual speed.

An anchor rode (combined length of line and chain) needs a 7:1 ratio, meaning the rode should be 7 times as long as the body of water is deep.

Every boater has an obligation to help a boater in distress. If your boat is disabled, stay with it—you'll be easier to see and safer than swimming away.

Boaters must stay 150 feet away from the shore line.

Swimmers should stay within 150 feet of the shoreline or should be with a guard boat, and should wear brightly colored caps—NOT white. The Monterey General Store has ordered these with a Lake Garfield logo and is stocking them for our swimmers safety.

A Marine Radio is a good thing to have at your home on the lake. Like a cell phone, you can take it with you when boating or on your dock. Unlike a cell phone, there is immediate emergency response even here in Monterey. An Internet link for these radios is http://www.westmarine.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CategoryDisplay. Or just http://www.westmarine.com will get you to the site.

— Steve Mathews & Pat Edelstein

I Love Monterey Day Parade

Remember the fun you had at the "I Love Monterey Day" parade last Labor Day weekend? You can do it again this year on Saturday, September 1, when venerable parade guru Ellen Pearson leads the way for the 2007 "Sustainable Monterey" parade.

Ellen asserts that good parades need good themes, which brought to mind the "Monterey Lights the Way" project held in the early 1980s and still remembered with pride by those who were there and a bit of envy by us newcomers. So we've decided to honor that environmentally conscious tradition by showing off Monterey's commitment to sustainable living. The Parade Committee envisions floats celebrating local agriculture, energy efficient cars, composting, recycling, alternative energy sources, green solutions, and more, much much more.

Last year's parade participants covered a wide swath of Monterey—elected officials, board and commission members, second home owners, dog walkers, musicians, our land trust, the future community center, camps, museums, lakes, and farms—in short, a splendid portrait of our diverse community. This year we hope to repeat that, and, with luck, to make it even bigger and better.

Plans are still in flux for the rest of "I Love Monterey" Day, but one can almost positively say with some certainty that the parade will be followed by a knockout picnic, guided walks along Monterey Preservation Land Trust trails, and, of course, music. This is, after all, Monterey.

The Parade Committee, currently peopled by Susan Cooper, Laury Epstein, Ellen Ferris, Maggie Leonard, Ellen Pearson, Jamie Puntin, Kathryn Roberts, Amy Shackleton, and Susan Sellew, welcomes volunteers to make this parade the biggest and best ever. Please call 528-0577 if you'd like to help out.

— Laurily Epstein

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Cultural Council Photo Contest Celebrates Monterey

On Memorial Day weekend Monterey was showcased in over 100 photos taken by 51 local artists. The Monterey Photo Contest and Exhibition, which ran from Friday through Monday, was attended by a steady stream of residents and visitors all four days. On Friday evening at a reception and awards ceremony, the Cultural Council awarded three grand prizes and seven category awards chosen by a panel of three judges:

Elissa Curtis, *Robert Woods Farm* (Art School Road) – Grand Prize

Frank D'Amato, *Winter Evening Light* (Town Center) – Grand Prize

Joanna Jennings, *Footstone* (Beartown Mountain Road) – Grand Prize

Maureen Banner, *Town Hall Night* (Town Hall) – Montereyish

Jean Germain, *Farm Rake by the Light of the Moon* (Fairview Road) – Abstraction

Bob Lazzarini, *Lambing Chart, Gould Farm* (Gould Farm) – Farming

Maureen McFarland, *Final Resting Place* (Blue Hill Road) – Historic

Edith Ross *Dying Forest* (Benedict Pond Road) – Waterscape

Ellen Russo *In the Sugarhouse* (Gould Farm) – People

Joel Schick *Daffodil Rock* (Main Road) – Landscape

The Cultural Council thanks not only the photographers who participated, but also the many Monterey businesses that contributed prizes and funds for the opening reception refreshments. As always, the General Store was there for us with fine refreshments, and the Monterey Church once again generously provided the space for the exhibition, and we thank them.

Flash Fiction Workshop Comes to Monterey

Frank Tempone, founder of the Pittsfield writing center Word Street, will offer a workshop on Tuesday, July 31, at 7:00 p.m. at the General Store. The "Absolute Beginner's Course in Flash Fiction" is a two-hour experience for adults in "creating, revising, and editing stories under 500 words." Participants will learn something about the form and how to work with it, do some writing, and then find out how to submit their stories to literary journals.

Sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council, the workshop is free. For more information, call Dianna Downing at 413-528-3381.

Volunteer Alternate Member Needed for Board Of Appeals

An "alternate member" position is available with the Monterey Board of Appeals. The alternate member is an understudy for the board members and substitutes for members that cannot attend appeal hearings. The term of the appointment is 5 years. Persons interested may apply by contacting the Monterey Secretary at 528-1443, extension 111, or the Chairman, Board of Appeals, at Town Hall, P. O. Box 308, 435 Main Rd., Monterey MA 01245. Both also may be reached at townmont@verizon.net.

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Historian John Demos at Bidwell House July 14

John Demos, professor of history at Yale University and resident of Tyringham, will speak at the Bidwell House Museum on his award-winning book *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America* on Saturday, July 14, at 1:00 p.m.

Demos's story begins on the night of February 29, 1704, when the small frontier town of Deerfield, with a population of 260 inhabitants, was raided by Mohawk Indians allied with the French in Queen Anne's War. The motive of the attack was to capture Reverend John Williams, a minister from a prominent family, who the Indians felt would make a good trade-off for the French Captain Jean Baptiste Guyon, held hostage by the English.

Williams's home was raided and his two youngest children were slain along with fifty other residents. Williams, his wife and five children were among the 112 Deerfield captives forced to make the 300-mile journey to Montreal over the next two months in the dead of winter. There the captives were sold to the French. Over the next few years, the governors of the French and English colonies negotiated for the release of the survivors. All of Williams's children were released and therefore considered "redeemed" as they reentered the Puritan Commonwealth. However, some captives refused to return, Among them Williams's daughter Eunice, who was six years old when captured. Eventually she learned French and Mohawk, married an Indian and had three children who grew up in the Iroquois community called Caughnawaga. She was given the Indian name of A'ongote.

Demos's narrative is based on correspondences between government officials, John Williams's autobiographical account of the captivity, his son's diary of his own experiences, and one letter written by Eunice at the age of 75. In the 1740s Eunice returned to New England to visit her elder brother, and Demos shows that journey has a connection with the Royal Hemlock Trail, an Indian pathway that intersects the Bidwell House acreage.

John Demos received his MA from UC Berkeley in 1961 and is currently the Samuel Knight Professor of History at Yale University, where he teaches graduate courses and research seminars on early American history, family history, and the process of historical narrative. He won the prestigious Bancroft Prize for *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England*.

Martha LaCroix Dailey, Director of the Bidwell House Museum said, "We are thrilled to host John Demos in our Authors' Series. His reconstruction of events and the experiences and trials of the John Williams family is a perceptive analysis of cultural encounters between Puritan New Englanders, Native Americans, and French Canadians. Demos will help all of us to further understand our local history." Books and signing will be available. For further information visit www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call 413 528 6888.

The Bidwell House, a colonial history museum in a 1750 house with eighteenth-century furnishings, preserves and explains lifeways in the Berkshires. It is located at 100 Art School Road in Monterey.

Swimming Lessons at Monterey Town Beach

The Monterey Park Commission has once again arranged to have swimming lessons at the town beach on Lake Garfield. The lessons will be conducted from July 9 through July 13. The times and a sign-up sheet will be posted at the beach.

Our Lady of Hills Chapel Open for Summer

Our Lady of the Hills Roman Catholic chapel is open for the summer. Masses will be held Saturday evenings at 7:00 from June 30th through September 1st. The chapel is located at 70 Beartown Mt. Rd.

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Household Hazardous Waste Collections Scheduled

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has scheduled several upcoming mini-site paint and used motor oil collections as well as a larger comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection. This program is sponsored by the fifteen towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative.

Mini-site (paint/oil) Collections

Saturday, July 7, 9–11:30 a.m., Great Barrington Recycling Center (Rt. 7, across from Monument Mtn. High School).

Wednesday, Aug. 8: 4:30–6:30 p.m., Lenox Department of Public Works (275 Main St., across from Mass Highway).

Saturday, Aug. 25: 9–11:30 a.m., Great Barrington Recycling Center (Rt. 7, across from Monument Mtn. High School).

Acceptable materials include unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine, as well as used motor oil.

Comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, July 21: 9 a.m.–noon, Stockbridge Transfer Station, 1 West Stockbridge Road (1 mile west of Red Lion Inn).

What to bring to the Comprehensive Collection: From the workbench: oil-based paints, stains and varnishes, wood preservatives, paint strippers/thinners, solvent adhesives, lighter fluid, acid. From the garage: fuels/gasoline/kerosene, antifreeze, degreasers, driveway sealer, brake fluid/carburetor cleaner, transmission fluid, car wax, polishes, roofing tar, pool chemicals, fluorescent lamps. From the yard: poisons, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers, weed killers, moth balls, flea control products. From the house: rubber cement, fiberglass resins, photo chemicals, floor and metal polish, oven cleaner, drain and toilet cleaner, spot remover, rug cleaner, hobby/artist supplies, mercury thermometers, thermostats, button batteries, and rechargeable batteries.

Julie Johnston

Televisions and computers will be accepted for a fee of $10 and up (depending on size.) No console or big screen TVs accepted. Products that contain mercury, such as fever thermometers and button batteries found in watches and hearing aides, also should be brought to the collection. There will be a digital fever thermometer exchange for mercury fever thermometers brought to this collection: one free per household. Rechargeable batteries, (e.g., cell-phone batteries and tool batteries) are accepted as well. Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in household trash.

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The Chipmunk's Tale

To those whose woodpile this must be
I'm thankful for this home for me.
When burrowed in between the logs
I'm cozy, safe from owls and dogs.
Of food there is a good supply,
and I have lots of friends nearby.
The owners of this little house
can hardly tell me from a mouse.
But still they let me have my fun.
(I've neither seen nor heard a gun!)
If they would ban me, they don't show it
Perhaps all humans love a poet.

— Ed Schur

DINGLE: West of Ireland – Stones

Stones are what God gives us here:
the druid on his tor
the hermit at his beehive hut
laid on them wisdom lore

stones last as long as death

sure, and I'll be knowing now
whatever death is for
'tis to make the things we stood for
stand for more.

— A. O. Howell

The Middler

as the middler of cosmical sequentialities
this one proferred on fenweek in fenmonth
of the thirdst as a faun of the lenten scrub,
a pre-primaveraachist elfen sprite, that
desscrabblites might opportune to insemen
the populitico enmosty, that deleriodomy
and gluttusion be hipped to the dungstack,
and all fattsmutts be detoned and
regenerized in modus humbus, sipporing the
simplic morement.

— Boney Oscar

Improvement?

Hidden away in a forest
Where grew the fern and frond
And the birds sang loud their chorus
The beavers once fashioned a pond.
There in the hush of evening
The thrushes' songs rang clear,
And to drink of the cool lake water
Fearlessly wandered the deer.
Then as the darkness gathered
And softly fell the dew
An owl "Whoo-Whooed," a fox barked,
And the baby beavers mewed.

Then came the men with their chain saws
And the forest trees they downed.
Soon the roar of their big bulldozers
Could be heard for miles around.
They tore out the dam built by beavers,
A dam built strong and well,
And constructed a man-made earthen dam.
Its strength time alone will tell.
These earthen dams are treacherous,
So we have understood;
And its truth was sadly shown us
By the terrible East Lee flood!

— Eleanor Kimberley

Tavern Party to Benefit Bidwell House

There were so many taverns in colonial New England and all along the Atlantic that there is an organization uniting descendants of tavern keepers from the thirteen original colonies. Aptly called Flagon and Trencher for the woodenware tankard and treen plates used to serve beverages and food, the society honors the taverns and stagecoach inns that sheltered travelers journeying on foot, horseback, and later by horse-drawn coach.

Most taverns were not originally built to serve the needs of travelers, but the need was so great that town selectmen urged homeowners to open a few rooms to travelers and become "taverners." In the harshest winter months the availability of a few feet of floor space near the fireplace and a warm drink was a matter of life and death because a person could travel only eight miles on horseback before needing warmth and sustenance for both man and horse. In addition, taverns were built near churches because they were usually not heated, so after a two-hour sermon, there would be a break while the congregation moved to the tavern for a bit of food and warmth before returning to the church the next lengthy sermon.

The Bidwell House Museum will host a Garden Party and fundraiser at an original stagecoach inn on West Center Road in Otis, which was built by Colonel Alford of the British Regiment of the Berkshires in 1740. For hundreds of years it has been a private residence, but the current owners, Beverly Hyman and Larry Birnbach, have generously agreed to open their doors to Bidwell guests on July 14 from 4 to 8 p.m. for a unique opportunity to tour the historic grounds and restored rooms of the stagecoach inn.

The inn was located on the first road linking Otis to Tyringham. Older residents of Otis remember the land as the Smith Farm; Mrs. Smith was eager to "put it into shape" according to the girlhood memories of longtime Otis resident and local historian June Crandall. Mrs. Crandall recalls visiting the site as a ten-year-old, when it was abandoned and in great disrepair. "My brother went upstairs and fell straight through from the second floor. We were reluctant to tell our parents because we knew we shouldn't be there." She recalls seeing the remnants of an old water-powered factory on the brook just below the inn. It was owned by Alford and made wooden dishes or treen from a water-powered lathe.

Otis generally encompassed the area later called Tyringham. It is believed that Colonel Henry Knox traversed Royal Hemlock Road on the Bidwell property with his cannon headed for Boston during the Revolutionary War. "Route 23 doesn't have a ghost of a chance of being a part of the Knox Trail," says Crandall who has studied old roads in this area for years. Reverend Bidwell is known to have killed some beef cattle to "feed the troops," and the house he built in 1750 is directly on the old Indian Trail, which was later widened by people in Stockbridge at the request of British authorities, who wanted to make it easier to ride a horse along it since it was the road linking Albany to the Old Boston Post Road.

Reverend Bidwell may have stopped at the Stagecoach Inn while traveling from his ancestral home in Hartford to Springfield and then to Tyringham. The Bidwell Board of Directors will supply cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, lemonade, and cookies for the many visitors expected to visit the site of one of the earliest taverns in the Berkshires. Taverns were the social gathering place especially for men as they discussed important issues of the day—from agrarian practices to animal husbandry, the availability of land, and the never-ending need for extra hands to farm the unforgiving land. By the 1760s the Stamp Tax and later tax on tea exacerbated a natural spirit of independence festering in the colonies. Historians have called the taverns and inns of the colonies "the

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birthplace of the American Revolution," as rebellious ideas were given shape and repeated from one resting place to the other. Broadsides or posters were posted on tavern walls, and copies of weekly newspapers were available.

Taverns also were an important part of the early postal system. If you wanted to write a letter, you used a table set aside for that activity and left it with the taverner; the next person going in the right direction simply picked it up and dropped it off at a tavern near its destination. The tall writing desk was used to sign contracts for anyone needing a place with ready witnesses; it was also where the landlord made out his bills and kept his books. It was the earliest mailbox; Benjamin Franklin formalized the post routes by traversing some popular roads in Massachusetts with a fifth wheel hitched to his carriage—indicating each mile with a marker, which was later placed with a stone signpost. Mail service by pony and rider was initiated in 1780 when the Continental Congress promised three-day mail service between Boston and Philadelphia.

The Otis Stagecoach Inn was a "better class" of tavern since it had a parlor which was used as a sitting room for travelers or could be hired for the exclusive use of a wealthier family; it has a second fireplace and cheerful furnishings. The Tap Room (or Keeping Room) was the largest room of the tavern. In Otis the great fireplace stands out, and it is possible to imagine the weary traveler trying to get a few feet of floor space near the blazing fire. Manners were rude by our standards but very democratic. "Putting on airs" was frowned upon; there were often two beds to a bedroom, and four or more people who were definite strangers might share the bed space. If you were asleep and a tavern keeper escorted a late night guest to your bed, it was impolite to object, and if you did you were considered "unreasonably fastidious." In a Tarrytown, New York, tavern, the signage outside promised "logging and clean sheets for 3 shillings; dirty sheets for one shilling."

Historians have estimated that the colonists required 6000 calories a day to withstand the physical labor of their lives; alcoholic beverages and a hearty breakfast of meat and porridge were the norm. The quantity of fermented drink consumed by the colonists was greater than now: beer, hard apple cider, pear cider, and a honey wine called mead were often made in great quantities by every farmer in the autumn. Women often made berry liquors.

Area residents are invited to step into the past at the Stagecoach Inn in Otis on July 14. Please call the Bidwell House Museum for further information and to make a reservation for this unique family activity: 413-528-6888.

CET Recycling Adviser at Monterey Transfer Station

A Center for Ecological Technology (CET) representative will be on hand to welcome residents and answer questions at the town transfer station, Gould Road, on Sunday, July 29. Shannon McDonough, CET's AmeriCorps *VISTA volunteer, will be at the station from 10 a.m. to noon. The recycling center hours on Sundays are 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Shannon will have information available about recycling, hazardous waste management, and waste reduction.

The Town of Monterey is one of the sixteen member towns that belong to the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District. The commissioners of the district recently asked CET to assist in educating the residents about how to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Shannon is looking forward to meeting Monterey residents and answering any questions they have about important environmental issues. If you have any questions before she gets there or would like more information, please call Shannon McDonough at 413-445-4556, ext 17, or email her at shannonm@cetonline.org.

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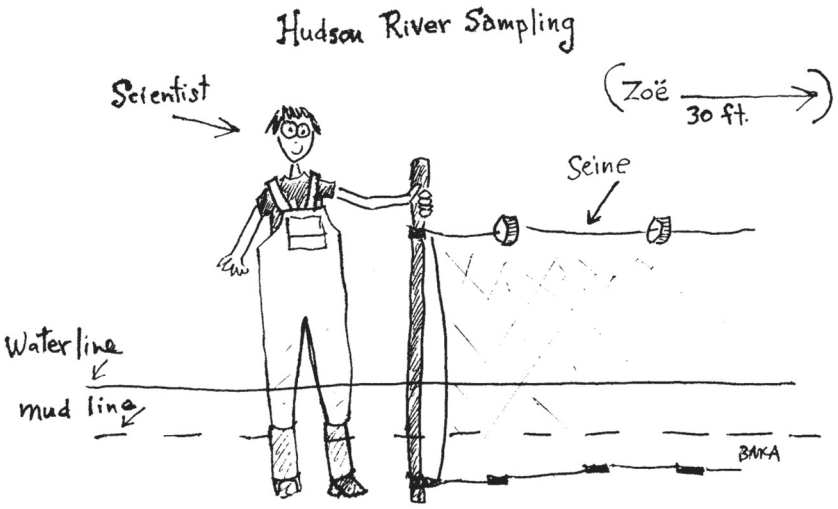
A Long, Lean Fish

Low tide on the Hudson estuary, just off Nutten Hook, New York. I am slogging out across the stickiest of muds with one end of a 4-foot-high net, about 30 feet long. My colleague Zoë has the other end. The water is about 6 inches deep and the third grade is way back on shore across the mudflat. I keep yelling to them:

"Well, you can see that the river is tidal here, right? We've got to get out a bit deeper before we can … aaaaaah!" I flail for balance, driving the end-pole into the mud to keep from doing a back splat in my chest-waders. Every third step the boot stays in the mud and my foot comes halfway up the leg of the waders. This is a real tripper for me, but so far I have managed not to mudify myself in front of everyone.

Finally we are out there. The tide is so low it feels like we must be about on the brink of the shipping channel. We are up to mid-thigh. What if a big barge comes along? Will the waves fill our waders? We start our sweep, with many a halt for catching our balance. It is so muddy we can't see anything in the water. Zoë and I mutter to each other about the unlikelihood of catching anything. What fish would hang out in this soup?

Hauling the net with us, we turn for shore. It is the heaviest we've felt it, in three days of this routine, but we know it is not full of fish. Maybe rocks, probably lots of mud. As we stagger to the shore, the kids gather around. They are imagining hundreds of sliver herring flopping in the net, or maybe an actual sturgeon. There is no movement. Even Zoë and I are holding still, hot and exhausted, figuring we'll have to head out and do it all over again, wondering if we can stand it.



We pull the net out of the water and scrutinize the roll of mud. There is something there! Not silvery, but something. I make a grab and it slides through my hands, but stays in the net. I realize we've got a small eel, about a foot long. This is a great catch, the first eel we have seen.

The first eel I remember catching was in North Carolina, fishing with some scornful southern cousins I had just met. We were all about nine years old. When I landed a big eel I was out of my league. I couldn't get hold of it long enough to work it off the hook and into a bucket. We wanted to keep it for eating, but I was just hopping around on the pier there in Little Washington unable to accomplish a thing. This was not like the bluegills of Lake Garfield.

Finally one of my so-called pals casually flips open his jackknife and lops the end off the tail. Immediately it holds still. "Ya gotta paralyze 'em," the kid drawls. There is some snickering. I hear "… damn Yankee …" more than I like.

Home in the Northeast, last week on the Hudson, I was still not so good with eels. Finally I got enough of a grip to hold the thing up for the kids to see. They liked it a lot and touched it. We needed to measure it and write things down, key it out with our dichotomous key, note whether or not it had pelvic fins.

I kept losing my grip because it was slippery and wiggly. It *felt* slimy, but there was no actual slime on my hands. I

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am going to say it was not covered with slime, just very slick. It had nice eyes looking forward and two very charming raised nostrils out on the end of the snout. The fin was continuous: back, tail, belly, all one long fin.

Eels look kind of like snakes, but they are genuine fish. Part of their lives they are in the sea, and part up in freshwater rivers and streams. They can get out on the mud or sand and wiggle around on land, but they cannot get past a dam. They would need an "eel ladder" for that. You won't ever find an eel in a place like Lake Garfield unless someone let it go there.

Some fish are *anadromous,* like the salmon, migrating upriver to spawn after a life at sea. Eels are *catadromous* and do it the other way around. They spawn in the Sargasso Sea, near Bermuda, and the eggs hatch out there. The first stage after the egg is the larva, and eel larvae are called *leptocephali* (thin-heads). These float around in the sea, carried by currents, until the Gulf Stream brings them close to shore along eastern North America. Near the coast, at depths of 5,000 feet or less, the next change is triggered and they turn into little transparent eels, called elvers (from eel-fare, or eel journey). The elvers head upstream in the spring, growing all the time. Most of their adult life is spent in fresh water, with the females going way up to the headwaters and the males staying downstream.

When they reach sexual maturity, the eels turn silvery and stop eating. They start downstream and swim until they reach the Sargasso Sea again, where they will spawn and die.

My trusty 1930 "Field Book of Ponds and Streams" (by Ann Morgan, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York) gives the Latin name *Anguilla bostoniensis* for this species, which is to say, Boston eel. Decades later we call it *Anguilla rostrata,* and refer to it as the American eel. We know more now about its range, but I'd like to know how it makes itself so slippery and how it can breathe in thick mud as well as on dry land. The third grade would like to know, too.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Wild Edible Plants Workshop at Bidwell House

Naturalist, Russ Cohen will lead a workshop on "Foraging the Forest for Food" at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, July 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cohen is the author of the new book *Wild Plants I Have Known ... and Eaten,* which will be available for sale.

The guided walk on Bidwell House acreage will be the occasion for examining wild edibles directly from the forest. The Berkshires are home to more than 100 species of wild edible plants, which according to Cohen are often more nutritious and flavorful than their cultivated counterparts. Keys to identifying each species will be provided, along with information on the edible portions of plants, seasons of availability, and preparation hints. Several species of mushrooms will be identified if weather permits.

The Bidwell House Museum is located on almost 200 preserved acres of forest and features an Heirloom Garden, Kitchen Herb Garden, miles of stone walls, a brook, wetlands, and open fields. Two marked trails are available to the public year round; the prime acreage is part of the Housatonic watershed and contiguous to Beartown Mountain State Forest; it is one of the largest undeveloped areas east of the Hudson River.

A well-known speaker on wild edible plants, Cohen will provide guidelines for safe and environmentally friendly foraging. Registration is encouraged but not absolutely necessary. Guests are urged to dress appropriately and carry water if it is a very warm day. Light refreshments will be available after the walk. A suggested donation will be welcome at the registration table. For more information and directions to the Bidwell House in Monterey, visit www.bidwellhousemuseum.org or call the office at 413-528-6888.

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David's Swamp

The summer season has visibly brought to life the annual renewal of wildlife in our woodlands, meadows, and swamps. Hen turkeys with their newly hatched broods have been seen crossing our country roads, and the snapping turtles have already laid their eggs along the edges of roadways in the sand warmed up by the sun. Does lead their fawns out into newly mowed hayfields where lush rows of fragrant grass cure in a fresh easterly breeze.

Down a winding wood road where I like to walk, which follows a small brook draining the rain runoff from Chestnut Hill into Lake Garfield, is a lakeside swamp. At its southwestern corner David McAllester built a lodge, complete with a fire pit ring of stones inside, around which he and his company spent many happy summer evenings singing Native American songs and celebrating the solitude of the natural setting. On a recent walk-by, some creative thoughts came to mind, from which I have exercised my own poetic license.

David's swamp in solemn stillness lies
in the listless lull before closing day
and resounds with off-tone fluted notes
the redwing blackbird's dissenting cries.

By the wandering path of a whitetail deer
still stands his wooden wigwam here
and in spirit appears to be the very same
fourteen moons after the owl called his
name.

High above a dark cloud a redtail soars
until the sound of a distant drum beat
so in flight closes the circle around
on earth just as the evening sun goes
down.

In the last week in July, a new moon will appear over the Lake Garfield horizon. The glowing arc of a crescent shape was seen by certain Native Americans as the arc of a silver bow in the dark heavens, from which shooting stars resembling flaming arrows fall down and burn out, fleeting before the eye and lasting only in memory. So, too, we often find ourselves looking back in time.

Each bright day brings a new world of outdoor observation, watching the growth and activity of our natural surroundings and ecology. Perhaps this experience will ignite our memories of those who also marveled at the miracle of it all and taught us well, leaving us a lasting legacy.

— George Emmons

ॐ

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The Sight, Erin Hunter
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Dragonsdale, Samanda Drake
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Free Wind Farm Tours

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has announced its annual schedule of wind farm tours at the Green Mountain Power Corporation's renewable energy wind facility in nearby Searsburg, Vermont. The first group of tours is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18. Tours start at 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. and are free to the public. The Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative (BREC) sponsors the tours.

The wind facility, located on Searsburg Mountain, was the one of the first commercial-scale wind power facilities constructed in the Northeast. Since 1997, eleven 550-kilowatt wind turbines have been producing electricity. Tour guides from Vermont Environmental Research Associates will cover topics ranging from selecting the site, public acceptance, how the technology works, wildlife protection, and the potential for wind power in this region.

During the tour, participants learn about issues that may affect the energy future of the Berkshires and enjoy ample opportunity to ask questions. The Searsburg wind facility is only open for tours on a limited basis between July and October due to protection of black bear habitat.

More tour dates are scheduled for Saturday, August 4, and Saturday, August 25. Fall tours are planned for Saturday, September 8, Wednesday, September 19, Wednesday, October 3, and Saturday, October 13.

Space is limited to 20 individuals per tour. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis by contacting CET at 413-445-4556 ext. 25 or by emailing cynthiag@cetonline.org. Directions to the site will be provided.

ॐ

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Letter from College
A Broader Education

While I know many of you who read this column are expecting a full Senate report, I'm going to save that for next month when I will be able to give a more complete picture. Rest assured that things are going well as I learn my duties as an intern in Senator Kennedy's office and find my way around inside the Beltway.

Last week I started a night class at the University of the District of Columbia, a summer Introduction to Logic class. So far the experience is exactly what I anticipated, yet completely different. The students are all there because they want to be there; many work full time, a good portion are married with children, and most are from minority backgrounds. I feel out of place a good portion of the time because my own academic experiences are quite different. As more classes go by, I am beginning to realize that the more the students talk about their lives in relation to the material, the more I have to learn from them.

I am not attempting to sound superior in any way, but put simply, the style of my Middlebury education is one of academic intellect and highly intelligent discussions. We sit in a classroom fairly removed from what real life is like and theorize and analyze hard questions from an outlook very different than that at UDC. I am not saying this is a bad thing: Middlebury's atmosphere is certainly one that I thrive in and that challenges me to develop my thinking abilities daily. At UDC, hearing others wrestle with questions of morality from their perspective widens my own viewpoint and at times helps to clarify it.

At UDC, the other students interact with the material on a level that is almost gritty; for many of them the definition of happiness is the sight of their children smiling, and questions of morals fall to real life experiences. It is a place where discussions are shouting matches and some comments ramble on and on with no relation to the subject matter. The syllabus looks far from demanding, but I know that I can't use that as an excuse for not working as hard as I normally would. I'm still unwilling to participate in the shouting because even if I were heard, my perspective is so alien that I'm uncomfortable sharing it. I hope that will change, because each day as I explain concepts to other classmates or get selected to lead a group project, I can see I also have something to offer that is somewhat rare in this environment.

The teacher is a true gem who loves to teach. He is gentle, but determined to connect with the students in his class. He does permit extensive tangents, but they're often of greater meaning. For example, the definition of philosophy sidetracked into the question of what the purpose of education really is: to learn to read, to write, and, most of all, to think creatively and critically. While I'm aware of education's true value, to hear it plainly stated means something more to me in this context, perhaps because it impacts the others in the room who are grappling with the importance of education on a level that is ingrained in some from years spent at college. What does it mean to really learn? It isn't about grades, though that is a realization I often lose sight of. Everything about UDC is foreign except for the ideas and purpose of the institution, which shine just as brightly as they do at Middlebury. They're just shining from a different angle.

The more time I spend in this vastly different class, the more I realize that education is more than the quality of the class and the material. I certainly wouldn't trade anything about Middlebury for UDC, but I'm learning that to have an experience like this night class is well worth my time because I can contrast and expand upon my own concept of what my education should be. It's a broader education indeed.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Tipping Mad

To the Editor:

My usual Sunday morning consists of Rainbow pancakes at the Gould Farm Roadside Café with my wife and children. I think it is a wonderful cause to support and I am proud to have an organization in my town doing such great things. The café and store are an integral step in Gould Farm's work program in helping individuals work to manage and rehabilitate themselves. The money raised here not only helps support the organization but also these very individuals who serve you every weekend.

So why is it that many patrons do not feel it necessary to leave a tip after enjoying a scrumptious meal? Last weekend I sat back and watched four tables of people get up, pay their bill at the counter, and walk out without tipping. I was at a loss for words, which friends will tell you rarely happens. I asked one of the kitchen staff and was told that some people leave a tip and many others don't.

I can't image eating a farm-fresh meal, surrounded by great people who rely in part on our generosity, and letting them feel like they did a less than satisfactory job, which truly isn't the case. Sure it can be a bit slow sometimes, but isn't it always worth it when your meal arrives piping hot? The people are great and the food is delicious. Remember this is the country, sit back, relax, and feel lucky to be part of something larger. Then remember to show them your gratitude for the meal you just enjoyed and for all that they have accomplished.

— Dean Lombardo

Solar Energy Workshop

A *solar energy for your home or business* workshop will be offered by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) on Thursday, July 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fisher Science Center at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington.

Registered professional engineer Chris Vreeland will be the workshop's featured speaker. Pre-registration is required by Thursday, July 5 and a donation of $10 is suggested. Participants are encouraged to arrive at 6 p.m. to sign in, and also to view the 10 kW solar array on the roof of the Science Center.

Skyrocketing energy costs and concern about the effects of fossils fuels on our health and environment are leading many businesses and homeowners to conserve and seek local, clean sources of energy. Interest in solar systems for homes, farms, schools, and businesses in the Berkshires continues to grow. Grants and tax incentives are available to help offset the cost of investing in solar energy and other renewable technologies.

This workshop is designed to help homeowners and businesses determine if a solar installation would be a good fit for their situation. Attendees will learn the basics about how solar hot water and solar photovoltaic panels work, the components of a solar energy system, how to determine what size system is needed, whether they have a good site, and how to gain additional benefits through energy efficiency improvements.

Mr. Vreeland will provide an overview of financial incentives available from Massachusetts and the federal government and will summarize a rebate program offered by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to help homeowners and small businesses pay for renewable energy systems.

If you are interested in attending, or have questions about the workshop, you are encouraged to pre-register through CET by calling Cynthia Grippaldi at 413-445-4556 ext. 25, or sending email to cynthiag@cetonline.org.

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Memorial Service for Dr. John Landor

There will be a memorial service for Dr. John H. Landor, who passed away in January, on Saturday, August 4, 2007, at the Monterey Meetinghouse, 2 p.m.

Cal Ripken Baseball

The Cal Ripken Summer Youth baseball program for players aged 8 to12 started on June 26 and will run through August. Games and practices will be on Tuesdays from 6–7:30 p.m. and on Saturday mornings 10–11:30. Activities take place at Greene Park in Monterey center on Route 23.

All players, beginners to all-stars, are welcome. For more information, email Steve Graves at sgraves8@yahoo.com or call 413-269-4632.

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall.

Monday, July 2: Sisters in Crime: three mystery writers read and discuss their work, 7 p.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Thursday, July 5: Free concert featuring John Sellew, Vikki True, and Bobby Sweet, 7–9 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Sponsored by Monterey United Church of Christ to celebrate newly refurbished sanctuary. See p. 5.

Saturday, July 7:

Storyteller John Porcino, 10:30 a.m. Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Friends of Lake Garfield (FLG) meeting, 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse.

Second Homeowners meeting, 10:30 a.m., at the firehouse.

Tuesday, July 10 (and every second Tuesday): Monterey Blue Grass Jam, 6–8:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Open to all skill levels; for information call Jeff Litishin, 413-528-1343.

Saturday, July 14:

Minstrel Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

Historian John Demos will speak at the Bidwell House, 1:00 p.m. See p. 11.

Tavern Party for Bidwell House, Stagecoach Inn, Otis, 4–8 p.m. See p. 14.

Build Your Own Twig Furniture, Sandisfield Arts Center, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. See ad p. 19.

Tuesday, July 17: Free Health Screening, Community Health Program, 10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, July 21: Singer/songwriter Tom Sieling, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

Saturday, July 28:

Library book sale on lawn 9 a.m.–1 p.m**. Also** storytelling fun with Myrna Rosen, library, 10:30 a.m. See p. 7.

Monterey Firemen's Annual Steak Roast, 5 p.m., Monterey Fire House Pavilion.

Naturalist Russ Cohen leads edible wild foods workshop at Bidwell House, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. See p. 17.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Jeff Walker. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Tuesday, July 31: Writing workshop with Frank Tempone on creating, revising, and editing stories under 500 words, 7 p.m., Monterey General Store. Free, sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 10.

Saturday, August 4: Magician Greg McAdams, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Library. See p. 7.

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The Observer
May 26–June 25

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Low temp. (6/7)	38°
Avg. high temp.	73.7°
Avg. low temp.	49.9°
Avg. temp.	61.8°
Total rainfall	4.21 in.

Precipitation occurred on 20 days.

Douglas Champigny Earns Degree

Douglas Michael Champigny received his Associate Science in Computer Science. He worked as a math tutor at BCC tutoring college students at various levels of math.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Rachel Arnow, pp. 22, 23; Maureen Banner, p. 7; George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, p. 116; Josefine Persson, p. 21.

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